

STORMWATER SAMPLING PROCEDURES

Wear proper protection such as safety glasses, gloves and proper clothing when collecting samples. If you happen to get some of the acid on your skin or clothing, rinse immediately with large amounts of water. If the acid gets into your eyes, wash with large amounts of water and seek medical attention at once.

A stormwater sample must be collected during a qualifying storm event (QSE). A QSE is a rainfall event with greater than 0.1 inches of rainfall that takes place at least 48 hours from the previous measurable rain event with no discharge from any drainage area.

Have a sampling crew ready when storms are forecast so that all outfalls can be sampled within the first 4 hours of the start of discharge or the start of scheduled facility operating hours if the QSE occurred in the previous twelve hours. Also, automatic samplers may be used to collect samples within the first 4 hours, triggered by the amount of rainfall, the depth of flow, flow volume or time.

Don't rinse the preserved bottles since they contain an acid as a preservative.

pH must be measured in the field within 15 minutes of collection using wide range (0 to 14) pH strips. Record pH, date/time measured and the name of the analyst on the chain of custody.

Total suspended solids is collected in a ½ gallon plastic bottle with no preservative.

Oil & grease is collected in a 1-liter amber glass bottle containing sulfuric acid preservative.

All sample bottles must be full.

If other parameters are to be analyzed, additional sample containers may be needed. Check with the lab if you have any questions about extra sample containers.

Fill out the label completely on each bottle, including the company name, date and time of the sampling, the sample location, and the person sampling. Completely fill out a Chain of Custody including "Analysis Required". Each sample point must be on a separate Chain of Custody.

See <http://www.walab.com/StormWaterChainOfCustodyExample.pdf> for an example of how to fill out a Chain of Custody.

Cool samples in an ice chest. Bring the samples to the lab immediately. Samples must be transported on ice. The temperature for nonmetals samples must be between 2°C and 6 °C for samples collected the day prior submittal and submitted on ice. Samples submitted on the same day and on ice are considered to be in the process of cooling down and will be accepted based on that assumption, even if the temperature upon receipt does not meet the required temperature ranges identified above.

Nitrate-nitrite (N) has a holding time of 48 hours and must be delivered to the lab immediately to allow sufficient processing time of the sample.

We don't offer storm water sample pickup. If we have a driver in your area, we may be able to accommodate. However, due to the large number of clients with samples after a QSE, Western Analytical Laboratories cannot guarantee sample pickup availability and the client must be prepared to deliver the samples to the lab.

Thank you for choosing Western Analytical Laboratories as the lab for your Stormwater Monitoring Program. Contact us any questions.